

Message Text

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TAGS: TPHY TBIO CO

SUBJ: PRIMATES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

REF: A. STATE 228894; B. STATE 198450; C. BOGOTA 3681

1. PROBLEM RE PRIMATES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IS GENUINE FEAR ON PART INDERENA OFFICIALS THAT CONTINUED HEAVY DEMAND FOR CERTAIN PREFERRED SPECIES WILL RESULT IN EXTINCTION OF THOSE SPECIES IN COLOMBIA. THIS FEAR IS THE RESULT OF A NUMBER OF STUDIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE PRINCIPAL TRAPPING ZONES. WE CANNOT COMMENT ON THE QUALITY OF THEIR STUDIES BUT ARE AWARE OF TSALICKIS POOR OPINION REGARDING THEM.

2. WHILE LACK OF CLEAR AUTHORITY IN INDERENA FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMITS MAY HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM, THIS NO LONGER APPEARS TO BE THE CASE. FROM DISCUSSION WITH INDERENA OFFICIALS IT APPEARS THAT PART OF THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN THAT TSALICKIS HAS WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE (PRACTICALLY UNTIL HIS PLANE WAS ARRIVING IN COLOMBIA) TO APPLY FOR SOME PERMITS. THEY HAVE INSISTED ON THE NEED FOR AT LEAST 10 DAYS TO PROCESS LICENSES AS A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT OFFICERS ARE INVOLVED.

3. INDERENA OFFICIALS ALSO ALLEDGE THAT THE RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

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HAVE NOT BEEN COOPERATIVE IN SUBSTITUTING OTHER PRIMATE SPECIES

FOR THOSE COLOMBIA FEELS ARE ENDANGERED. ACCORDING TO MEDICAL RESEARCHERS THEY HAVE CONSULTED SUCH SUBSTITUTION WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN SOME CASES WITHOUT AFFECTING THE OUTCOME OF THE EXPERIMENTS.

4. ANOTHER FACIT OF PROBLEM IS THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE OF THE PRIMATES WHICH TSALICKIS EXPORTS THROUGH COLOMBIA ARE ACTUALLY TRAPPED IN PERU AND BRAZIL. WHILE THIS NUMBER DOES NOT AFFECT THE COLOMBIAN PRIMATE POPULATION THERE IS REALLY NO WAY FOR THE GOC TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT IN ASSIGNING QUOTAS AS PRIMATE EXPORTS FROM BRAZIL AND PERHAPS PERU ARE BELIEVED TO BE ILLEGAL.

5. FYI, AND TO PROVIDE PERSPECTIVE, TSALICKIS IS COOWNER OF TARPON ZOO AND SIMON DAZA OTHER MAJOR PRIMATE EXPORTER FROM COLOMBIA IS TSALICKIS EMPLOYEE. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS INFO CONFIDENTIAL AS DISCLOSURE WOULD HARM TSALICKIS COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS HERE.

6. EMB AGREES THAT ONLY EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM LIES IN A REALIABLE STUDY OF THE PRIMATE SITUATION IN COLOMBIA. PERHAPS SUCH A STUDY COULD BE PROPOSED AND FINANCED BY US BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS. THIS STUDY COULD EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES TO CONTINUED TRAPPING SUCH AS BREEDING OF PRIMATES UNDER CONFINEMENT. LACKING SUCH A STUDY THE GOC IS MORE LIKELY TO LIMIT PRIMATE EXPORTS ON THE BASIS OF CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY INDERENA TO PRESERVE THE SPECIES RATHER THAN ON THE BASIS OF RESEARCH NEEDS. IN MEANTIME SINCE INDERENA WILL SOON BE CONSIDERING QUOTAS FOR 1974 THE BIOMEDICAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD FORWARD REQUESTS AND JUSTIFICATIONS TO INDERENA ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN REF C.
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